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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the regional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice

Progress report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present progress report of the Secretary-General brings to the attention of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice the progress achieved in the activities carried out by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and other associated institutes cooperating closely with the Secretariat in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The role, capacity and potential of this crime prevention and criminal justice programme network in complementing the work of the Secretariat and in assisting the Commission in promoting the goals and objectives of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme are also highlighted.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 36 of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex), the interregional and regional institutes were requested to keep the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice informed, on a regular basis, of their respective programmes of work and their implementation.

2. The Commission's attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and other institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice (A/46/524). In the light of this report, and of the recommendations of the Seventh Joint Programme Coordination Meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held at Dahran, Saudi Arabia, on 7 and 8 January 1992, the present report, departing from past style, describes the role, capacity and activities of each institute, as part of a programme network within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and as an indication of the continuous need for the integration and coordination.

3. The present report has been prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information provided by each of the institutes, with the assistance of the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations. It outlines the terms of reference and funding bases of the institutes, so as to bring to light both their unique differences and their commonalities, in terms of programmes of work that are being carried out in pursuance of overall programmatic goals for promoting United Nations criminal policy at the interregional, regional and subregional levels.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME NETWORK

4. The "crime prevention and criminal justice programme network"* consists at present of:

(a) The Rome-based United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), a United Nations entity that operates on an interregional basis;

(b) Four affiliated regional institutes: the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at Fuchu, Japan (covering Asia and the Pacific); the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at San José, Costa Rica (covering Latin America and the Caribbean); the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), at Helsinki, Finland (covering Europe); and the African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, at Kampala, Uganda (covering Africa);

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*This terminology has been adopted for ease of reference and for the sake of uniformity of nomenclature, as recommended by the Seventh Joint Programme Co-ordination Meeting at Dahran.

(c) Three associate institutes that also cooperate closely with the United Nations: the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre (ASSTC), at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (a regional centre covering the Arab world); the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), at Woden, Australia (a subregional institute, covering the Pacific), and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, at Vancouver, Canada (an international centre).

5. The crime prevention and criminal justice programme network serves as a link between the United Nations and States in the different regions. It promotes interregional, regional and subregional cooperation, seeking to foster United Nations criminal policy and keeping States abreast of the work and perspectives of the United Nations. The network advises the Secretariat of the special needs, concerns and priorities of the regions, and assists in the implementation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

6. The affiliated regional institutes are funded largely by their respective host States, and countries of the region. The funding for ASSTC is based on contributions from Arab States, Australia provides the funding for AIC, and Canada provides funding for the Vancouver Centre.

7. A major restriction on the work of the network, which hampers the development of criminal justice world-wide, is the current lack of financial resources, especially in the case of the institutes that serve developing countries. In paragraph 35 of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action, it is noted that the activities of the institutes "should be supported by Member States and the United Nations, giving particular attention to the needs of such institutes located in developing countries. Given the important role of such institutes, their contributions to policy development and implementation, and their resource requirements, should be fully integrated into the overall programme, especially those of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders". In paragraph 38, it is stated that the "Commission shall seek to mobilize extrabudgetary support for the activities of the interregional and regional institutes".

8. Each institute attempts to render assistance in all forms of international cooperation through the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. Each has a particular role to play and has developed its own profile of activities, as well suited to the needs of its constituency as resources permit. All the institutes maintain close cooperation with various United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-govenmental organizations.

9. The research, studies and surveys conducted by the institutes are designed to yield productive and useful results for the benefit of both developing and developed countries. Emphasis is placed on research that can be used in policy development and in improving practical crime prevention and control measures.

10. To varying degrees, the institutes seek to develop continually their programmes of training and technical cooperation, both individually and jointly. Training is primarily targeted at criminal justice professionals, policy makers and decision makers, educators, social operatives and researchers. It is geared to promoting and exchanging information on the implementation of United

Nations standards and norms, bringing together decision makers, administrators and researchers on a cross-sectoral basis, updating the technical skills and capabilities of criminal justice profile examples, and carrying out training in methodologies for research and policy analysis.

11. It is recognized that sound development of crime prevention and criminal justice requires wide public support. ASSTC, for example, has organized a series of exhibitions and public lectures to bring to the attention of a wide audience the work done by the United Nations and developments in a variety of key contemporary issues of professional and public concern.

12. The network is seeking to develop its capacity to serve as a clearing-house or international information centre for criminal justice agencies, organizations and individuals concerned. UNICRI, ASSTC and AIC, in particular, have founded extensive libraries. AIC has promoted the computerization of library listings, thus increasing the possibilities of direct cooperation with other institutions and agencies. Each of the institutes publishes research reports and the proceedings of various meetings. They regularly publish news-letters. The Asian and Latin American institutes, ASSTC and AIC publish periodic journals.

13. Coordination between the network and the Secretariat is at present carried out through the annual joint programme coordination meetings of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, hosted and financed entirely by ASSTC at Riyadh. This coordination mechanism has helped the network to consolidate and integrate its activities more effectively.

14. The attention of the Commission is drawn to paragraphs 18 and 36 of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action, where it is specified that, within the framework of the programme, the United Nations should act as a coordinating or facilitating agent and that the interregional and regional institutes should keep one another and the Commission informed on a regular basis about their programme of work and its implementation.

15. Concerning the Commission's role in the coordination of crime prevention and criminal justice activities world-wide, it is stipulated in paragraph 26 (c) of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action that one of the functions of the Commission is "to facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the interregional and regional institutes". In paragraph 37, it is further stated that the Commission may request the interregional and regional institutes, subject to the availability of resources, to implement selected elements of the programme and may also suggest areas for interinstitute activities.

16. In the light of the above information, the Commission may wish to consider ways in which the institutes, collectively and individually, could provide advice, from a scientific and professional point of view, on how the programme could be planned and implemented within the framework of United Nations activities, interregionally, regionally and subregionally.

17. One way in which this might be accomplished is through the network's involvement in the selection of experts to advise the Commission, as referred to in paragraph 28 of the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action. As such experts are chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, the network could play an important role in a number of ways, for example by

identifying highly competent persons of widely recognized standing and by supporting the transfer and development of expertise in various countries. Coordination could also be enhanced through the identification by the Commission of a list of priorities for the network, paying due regard to respective terms of reference and overall resource requirements. Such an approach would require detailed and careful planning and the monitoring of its implementation, in order to review the status of the various projects and any difficulties encountered.

II. ACTIVITIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND AFFILIATED REGIONAL INSTITUTES

A. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

18. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) was established in 1967, under the name "United Nations Social Defence Research Institute", as the "research arm" of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/56, established the Institute as a subsidiary organ of the Council, and adopted a set of new statutes, mandates and terms of reference under its present name. The Institute now carries out a significantly broadened range and scope of activities, including those related to training and technical assistance.

19. The objective of UNICRI, according to article II of its statutes (Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/56, annex), is "to contribute, through research, training, field activities and collection, exchange and dissemination of information, to the formulation and implementation of improved policies in the field of crime prevention and control, due regard being paid to the integration of such policies within broader policies for socio-economic change and development, and to the protection of human rights". According to article IV of its statutes, the Board of the Institute, under the guidance of the (former) Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, shall:

> "(a) Formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;
>
> "(b) Consider and approve the work programme and budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;
>
> "(c) Evaluate the Institute's completed and ongoing activities on the basis of periodic reports submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;
>
> "(d) Make the recommendations necessary or desirable for the operation of the Institute;
>
> "(e) Report periodically to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control."

20. In the light of the functions of the Board of the Institute vis-à-vis the Commission, and particularly in view of the provisions of General Assembly

resolution 46/152 and the annexed Statement of Principles and Programme of Action and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/56, by which the Institute was established, the Commission may wish to review the established reporting procedure.

1. Comparative research

21. In its role as an interregional institute, UNICRI pays considerable attention to the development of comparative research and international databases, and conducts research that includes criteria and mechanisms for the evaluation of adopted criminal justice policies, in the overall context of socio-economic development.

2. Training

22. The main areas for the training of criminal justice personnel and social operatives are research methodology and policy analysis. Although training had always been part of the activities of UNICRI, for example the training of young researchers during their internship at the Institute and of local research staff engaged in projects in developing countries, a more structured training programme was initiated after the adoption of its new statute. Training activities are geared to the acquisition and promotion of skills, the exchange of information and experience, and the generation of operational, training and research capacities and structures.

23. Jointly with the Secretariat and ASSTC, UNICRI was responsible for coordinating the work of the institutes and of individual experts in the preparation of the ASSTC-funded research workshops at the Seventh and Eighth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

3. Technical cooperation

24. A particular strength of the Institute's programme is the execution of international and country projects. The technical cooperation component comprises projects, training courses and seminars and humanitarian programmes at the country level. The Institute has launched a number of pilot projects, particularly concerning "street children" and the prevention of drug abuse.

4. Library and documentation services

25. UNICRI has been developing a highly specialized library. This library constitutes a notable documentation centre in the fields of criminology, criminal law and sociology. It also contains relevant documentation of the United Nations and other international organizations. UNICRI operates a clearing-house and documentation service (the Drug Abuse Comprehensive Centre) for the collection and dissemination of bibliographical and audiovisual materials concerning drug addiction and the training of operational personnel.

5. Publication and dissemination services

26. The results of the Institute's work are disseminated through its publications. Reports are published either as monographs or as documents targeted at Member States and specialized institutions and organizations. Information on its work is also included in various United Nations documents.

6. Resources

27. Activities are funded largely from earmarked contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence, mainly those of the host Government, which has generously supported the Institute's activities since its inception. UNICRI receives contributions from other Governments and from some organizations and agencies for the implementation of specific projects. It currently has a staff of 28, 10 of whom are involved in substantive work and 18 in support activities. It can also draw on the expertise of more than 50 consultants. Its operational budget for 1992 is $2.8 million (excluding salaries).

B. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

28. The Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was established in 1962, pursuant to an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan, to promote regional cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice through training and research, and to contribute to sound social development in the Asian and the Pacific region. The full financial and administrative responsibilities for running it are assumed by the Government of Japan. The nine members of the faculty staff (including the Director and Deputy Director), as well as the 20 members of the administrative, clerical and technical staff, are appointed from among Japanese government officials. Apart from the regular staff, four or five visiting experts from abroad are invited to each training course or seminar by the Ministry of Justice of Japan. The Institute has also had valuable assistance from individual experts, who provide contributions in kind, on an ad hoc basis, to its training programme.

1. Training and technical cooperation

29. Training is the principle area and priority of the Institute's programme of work. The Institute's aim is to upgrade professional knowledge and techniques that are essential to the effective and efficient administration of criminal justice. It plays a major role in examining the particular problems of the region and in assessing States' needs for technical and financial assistance.

30. In the 30 years since its establishment, the Institute has conducted 89 international seminars and training courses and three short-term special training courses. One of the distinguishing features of its training and seminar courses is their interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral character. The training provided by the Institute in the implementation of United Nations standards, norms and guidelines and international instruments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice helps States to translate them into practice.

31. Although there have been differing views on the current priorities of the Asia and the Pacific region, drug trafficking and abuse, organized crime, corruption, prison overcrowding and juvenile delinquency constitute major problem areas to which priority attention is being devoted by the Institute.

2. Comparative research and policy development

32. Reflecting its emphasis on training, the research activities of the Institute are mainly designed to meet practical needs, including those for

reference materials for training and seminar courses. Past projects carried out include a comparative survey of juvenile delinquency in Asia and the Far East and research on open correctional institutions in Asia and the Far East, forms and dimensions of criminality and criminal policy in Asian countries, crime trends and crime prevention strategies in Asia and the Pacific Region, alternatives to imprisonment in Asia, criminal justice in Asia, and the implementation of standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners in Asia. The Institute also holds workshops on various topics.

33. As the Institute has a small faculty, whose commitments range from logistical matters to substantive programmes for the three-month-long training courses, the active involvement of the staff in research is difficult. The possibility is being examined of inviting visiting researchers, on an ad hoc or regular basis, taking into account the financial implications involved.

3. Information and documentation services

34. The Institute has collected data and materials on crime trends, crime prevention and treatment of offenders from countries in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, the Americas and the European region. On request, the Information and Library Service has been providing materials and information to United Nations agencies, governmental organizations, research institutes and individual researchers, both domestic and foreign. Since 1971, the Institute has been publishing its biannual Resource Material Series. This series of publications contains contributions by visiting experts and participants in the training courses, and by staff members, on a variety of issues concerning crime prevention and criminal justice. The Institute also publishes newsletters three times a year.

4. Resources

35. The Institute's budget is provided through the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), which is affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1992, the allotment for its principal activity, namely, training, amounted to approximately $325,000. The Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, a non-governmental organization that was recently granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, has also supported the Institute's activities, through direct financial contributions and through the provision of personnel.

36. All of the Institute's international training and seminar programmes within and outside Japan have been carried out under the financial auspices of JICA. Despite the fact that it has reported a growing demand for training opportunities on many occasions, it has had some difficulty in responding to this demand, owing to financial constraints and limited facilities. Its training programmes can only be implemented within the framework of the Official Development Assistance scheme established by JICA. At present, it does not have budgetary funds of its own at its disposal.

C. Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

37. The Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was established at San José by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Costa Rica signed on 11 June 1975. Its main purpose is to cooperate with Governments of the region in formulating

policies and taking action in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, in line with the overall objectives and priorities of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. Its work has been carried out within the framework of relevant legislative bodies.

38. In the 16 years since it was founded, the Institute has been able to promote an atmosphere of political will and cooperation at various levels, which has led to significant changes and reforms in criminal justice systems and crime prevention policies, as well as respect for human rights. It is implementing programmes and projects in close collaboration with supreme courts of justice, ministries of justice and the interior, attorney general's offices and other official institutions in various areas.

1. Comparative research and policy development

39. Research activities planned for 1992 include projects on public defence and the democratization of criminal justice in Bolivia, indigenous justice in Guatemala, strengthening of the rule of law and criminal justice in Central America and in Panama, criminal justice and freedom of the press in Central America and in Panama, and victimization surveys in developing countries.

2. Training and technical assistance

40. The Institute has organized regular training courses, workshops, seminars and conferences for criminal justice personnel. Over 100 seminars and symposia organized by it since 1975 have covered topics ranging from criminal policy development to the proper functioning of correctional institutions and the problems of juvenile marginality and delinquency. The International Meeting on the Criminal Abuse of Power, sponsored by the Institute in 1978, is considered to have been a ground-breaking contribution to the study of this problem.

41. The Institute's training programme includes seminars held in Costa Rica and training activities carried out elsewhere, in close cooperation with Governments and national criminal justice agencies. Currently, the Institute is involved in strengthening judicial training in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Honduras, in special training for the technical staff of the Ministry of Justice of Costa Rica in violence prevention and control, and in "popular" legal education in Costa Rica.

42. Technical assistance in implementing criminal justice strategies that apply United Nations recommendations and directives, and their adaptation to national development plans, is provided by the Institute to requesting Governments. The Institute's Agrarian Justice Programme, initiated in 1987, involves a series of studies, reports, conferences and courses aimed at improving agrarian justice and strengthening the institutions, mechanisms and procedures governing agricultural production. Examples of the areas in which it will be involved in 1992 include assistance in legislative reform in Costa Rica and Ecuador; modernization of the administration of the supreme courts (with a planning model developed in Honduras); a programme for the administration of justice in Nicaragua; a regional programme on effective countermeasures against drug offences and organized crime; a programme to combat drug abuse at the community level; women and criminal justice in Latin America; and the development of a national register of detainees in Peru.

3. Information and documentation services

43. The Institute's documentation centre and data bank serve as a regional clearing-house for crime statistics and criminal justice policies. The Institute has also devised a model for collecting, systematizing and updating information on current laws and jurisprudence. A computerized database is being established within the documentation centre, which works in close cooperation with national and local libraries. Currently, it is carrying out a project on the strengthening of juridical libraries throughout Latin America, and one on the extension of the judicial statistics information system of the Dominican Republic.

44. It issues six non-periodic publications each year. Among its notable publications is El Preso sin Condena ("The Unsentenced Prisoner") and ILANUD al Día ("ILANUD Today"), a journal that contains articles and reports on criminology and penal science by noted contributors from within and outside the region. Responding to the need for reliable figures on the case-flow within judicial systems, the Institute has developed a manual, entitled Establishment of an Integrated System of Statistics on Criminality (published in 1983).

4. Resources

45. The Institute's total budget covers operating and administrative expenses. Regional and country-specific activities are viewed as specific projects. Although the Institute is able to provide services to States and meet (although not completely) the heavy and continuous demand, budgetary restrictions create problems for programme coordination, long-term projection of activities and assurance of the permanence of programmes and technical, administrative and support personnel.

46. Funding is derived from voluntary contributions from Governments in the region and private and international funding by agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The host country continues to provide the facilities and the salaries for staff, as well as annual funds for operational costs. The annual financial resources for regular operational costs total $80,000, supplemented by funds earmarked for specific projects from UNDP, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United States Agency for International Development (AID), the Commission of the European Communities, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, JICA, the Norwegian Agency for International Development Authority (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (Directorate of Cooperation for Development). Financial support for projects is also provided by 13 Governments in the region, by countries in other regions and by international organizations (for example the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Henry Dunant Institute).

47. Financial resources are very limited and the Institute has not been able to secure a stable and permanent financial base that would enable it to comply fully with the mandates of the United Nations and to follow-up on many of the activities initiated in its work programme. On the basis of an assessment made by the Director in 1991 for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and other United Nations institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice (A/46/524), it was estimated that United Nations financial

assistance of about $600,000 was required from the regular programme for the Institute's operations in 1992.

48. The Institute's directorate has a comptroller's office, a project planning and control office, a training unit and a documentation centre with a permanent professional staff of 13 persons responsible for formulating, carrying out and evaluating specific projects. The Institute also has a technical council of 10 experts from the region, which assists the management in an advisory capacity in formulating policies, reviewing plans of action and preparing the budget and annual reports. It also has two scientific councils, one regional and the other international. Made up of 56 renowned, prestigious scholars and experts, these councils support the management in orienting and providing technical guidance.

D. Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations

49. The Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, was established in 1981 and became operational in autumn 1982. The objective of the Institute is to promote the exchange of information on crime prevention and control among European States. Its functions are outlined in the 1981 Agreement between Finland and the United Nations. Since its inception, it has worked in close cooperation with the other institutes and with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in the planning and implementation of its programme of work.

50. As a result of the fundamental social, political, legal and economic changes in central and eastern Europe, which have been accompanied by a burgeoning rate of crime and by a heightened public fear of crime, the Institute is intensifying its efforts to serve as a channel for providing central and eastern European States with assistance in the crime prevention and criminal justice field.

1. Comparative research and policy development

51. The Institute has carried out a number of European surveys on issues of importance for policy development and practical decision-making in the region and for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme. The subjects have included prosecutorial principles, alternatives to imprisonment, crime prevention measures, juvenile delinquency and victim policy. Several of the surveys have formed the basis of reports of the Secretary-General to the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The work done by the Institute on computerization and criminal justice administration is particularly important.

52. At present, it is engaged in research on the protection of the environment, the prevention of domestic violence, prison health services, organized crime, and the reform of criminal law. In some areas in Europe, the local and national research capacity may be insufficient. In such cases, it seeks to provide assistance in research, usually by commissioning outside research expertise.

2. Training and technical cooperation

53. When specific needs have been determined, the Institute identifies experts who could provide the necessary technical assistance, and to finance

their services in target countries. This approach has been used, for example, in providing technical assistance on the computerization of the administration of criminal justice, and on police matters. The Institute also seeks to identify potential sponsors to assist in the funding of such services.

54. The project on the computerization of the administration of criminal justice, which has been carried out in close cooperation with experts from the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and the Department of Justice of Canada, is an example of the Institute's practical approach. It has also initiated a project together with the Departments of Justice and Communications of Canada for the extension of international cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage.

55. Following the model successfully pioneered by the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and ASSTC, the Helsinki Institute is considering the organization of seminars, on a bilateral basis, with individual States. It would have the primary responsibility for the substantive content of courses, which would be geared to a specific personnel category. Course presentations would be made by officers of the Institute and of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as other experts.

56. The Institute is considering expanding its scholarship programme in order to provide practitioners and researchers in one country with the opportunity of visiting their counterparts in other countries to discuss issues of common concern.

3. Information and documentation services

57. The Institute has done work in connection with the development of the global information network on crime and criminal justice and has cooperated with the World Criminal Justice Library at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice in the United States of America. It funds the start-up of members of the network in various European countries and tries to ensure that information on the documentation available through the World Criminal Justice Library reaches the appropriate agencies and institutions throughout Europe. Its own modest library is now being computerized in order to increase the effectiveness of information retrieval and to promote international information-exchange.

58. Its principal publication series consists of the reports of meetings and seminars, of European surveys of various criminal justice issues, and of collections of articles. It has also published regional reports on the results of the United Nations surveys of crime trends, operations of criminal justice systems and crime prevention strategies, and a series entitled "Criminal Justice Systems in Europe", the reports of which provide a general description of the operation, functions and profiles of national criminal justice systems. It publishes a biannual Newsletter, reporting relevant developments in international crime prevention and control. Among its features is a listing of the "grey literature" available either directly from the authors or from the Institute.

4. Resources

59. Funds are contributed primarily by the host Government, which covers the cost of the premises, salary of the staff and most of the programme

activities. The agreement establishing the Institute envisages, however, that Governments of the countries of the region would participate in and support its operations. The Governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden have consistently provided annual financial support. Other countries have provided support through their cooperation in the substantive and organizational preparation of various projects and meetings. In addition, several Governments have funded specific projects.

60. The Institute has five full-time staff members (a director, one senior researcher, two programme officers and an office secretary) and one person part-time (a librarian). The annual financial resources for operational expenses total approximately $160,000, with annual contributions from Denmark, Norway and Sweden amounting to approximately $60,000.

E. African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

61. The African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is the newest regional institute, having been established in 1987. It is located at Kampala, and operates under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with financial assistance from UNDP.

62. According to its statutes, the Institute's objective is to help the countries of the African region to formulate policies and programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice within the context of overall plans for national development. It seeks to promote this objective through policy-oriented and problem-oriented research, training, advisory missions to requesting Member States, the promotion of innovative approaches to crime and delinquency prevention and control, and the establishment of an information network for the African region.

63. During its initial phase of activity, it concentrated on becoming operational and conceptualizing substantive research, training and documentation activities. Important training courses have already been organized on crime prevention and criminal justice planning, the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency, and the prevention of economic and organized crime. Seminars are currently being prepared on planning, on victims of crime and on the prevention of delinquency.

64. On the basis of its experience and consultation with leading experts and policy makers in Africa, its priority issues are: the creation of a database on crime, criminal victimization and the administration of justice, through a survey to be conducted in 1992/93; the establishment of a stable structure and system at the national level for the regular collection, processing and analysis, and the publication and dissemination, of valid and reliable data; and training of middle-level criminal justice personnel at the national level, as a prerequisite for other programme areas.

1. Research

65. Research initiatives include: the adaptation of the Manual for the Development of Criminal Justice Statistics to the needs of African countries; a pilot project for the collection of comprehensive crime statistics; a study on the harmful impact of the new forms and dimensions of criminality; a survey of criminal penal law and procedure in countries of the region; a study on the relationship between development and criminality; and a feasibility study on

the establishment of a regional information network to link up with the information network on global crime and criminal justice. The Institute held, from 16 to 19 December 1991, a training and coordination workshop on the survey of crime, victimization and justice administration in Africa, and a pilot survey is scheduled for the first quarter of 1992.

2. Technical cooperation

66. At this stage, given the special circumstances of the African region, the general role of the Institute in the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme is to increase awareness of the Programme. It is seeking to provide the appropriate authorities of Governments in the region with a forum where they can consider and implement, within their means and resources, the crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes of the United Nations, in accordance with their national circumstances.

3. Resources

67. The Institute currently has a substantive staff of four officers; two additional positions (in research) are dependent on the receipt of funds for that purpose. In addition, there is a support staff of two persons. The total 1992 allotment of $200,000 provides $25,000 for operational activities, including equipment and travel. The host country provides the premises and requisite facilities and has made special efforts to expedite the renovation of the Institute's headquarters.

68. Funding of technical assistance in a number of priority areas, including the proposed survey, training of personnel at the national level, small-scale research, services of experts, data processing and instructional equipment and facilities, is seriously lacking.

69. Funding derives largely from UNDP. As recommended by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, UNDP approved a grant of $250,000 for preparatory assistance to cover the Institute's activities during its initial phase of operations in order to establish the basic infrastruture and *modus operandi* to initiate activities. As stipulated in its statute, assessed contributions are intended to meet the Institute's infrastructural and administrative requirements, as well as long-term programme needs, and its operational activities are to be funded by UNDP.

70. The present financial situation is precarious, as the majority of States of ECA either have not yet paid their assessed contributions or have paid only part of them. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/19, acknowledged the economic constraints on African States that made it difficult for them to meet their financial obligations to the Institute and urged UNDP to provide adequate funding on an assured, predictable and continuous basis for a minimum of six years, subject to biannual evaluation of performance by its Board and by the (former) Commictee on Crime Prevention and Control. Similar calls were made by the Eighth Congress and by the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/153, in which it invited the international community to assist the Institute. In May 1991, the Governing Board examined the Institute's financing, stressed the pressing need for the assessed contributions from States of the African region to be made and called for the assistance of UNDP, which pledged support of $2,013,716 throughout 1993.

71. On the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/524), the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, adopted resolution 46/153, by which the Secretary-General was requested, in paragraph 2, "to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to the Institute within the overall appropriations of the budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to enable the institute to carry out, in full and on time, all its mandates". In the statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/46/L.74), a number of proposals were made in respect of the implementation of resolution 46/153, on which a report would be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The approaches considered included a redeployment of resources and provision of resources through additional appropriations from the regular budget. Taking the 1991 budget of the Institute as a base, apart from voluntary contributions, a grant of $180,000, representing half the contribution of African Member States, could be provided as a grant under section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Such a grant for 1992 would help to cover the administrative costs of the Institute.

72. The financial base of the Institute, though, requires considerable further attention, as emphasized by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/152. In the information provided in 1991 by the Institute's Director for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/524), it was estimated that the Institute's annual recurrent budget, including core staff and administration, would amount to approximately $800,000.

III. ACTIVITIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF OTHER ASSOCIATED INSTITUTES

A. Arab Security Studies and Training Centre

73. ASSTC was established at Riyadh in 1978 by a decision of the Second Meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior. Both an intergovernmental organization and a specialized regional centre servicing the Arab world, ASSTC operates under the aegis of the Council of Ministers of the Interior of the League of Arab States and is governed by a Board of Directors headed by the Minister of the Interior of Saudi Arabia. It works in close partnership with the bureaux of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice of the League, carrying out various activities on their behalf. It is represented at the League's pertinent meetings, including those at the ministerial level, and plays an important role in cooperation among the Gulf States in matters of crime prevention, criminal justice and security.

74. The Centre assists Arab States in the context of the Islamic legal system, and participates in international efforts to prevent crime and victimization, maintain security and peace, promote sustained development in the context of socio-economic and cultural conditions and foster justice. Its approach is cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary.

75. ASSTC continues to cooperate closely with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and, over the years, has become an integral partner in the work of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme network. A particular focus of the Centre's activities is programme network coordination, and it has acted as host to the series of annual joint programme coordination meetings in Saudi Arabia since 1985. It works closely with the relevant authorities and officials of 21 Arab States on the implementation, translation

and dissemination of the work and policies of the United Nations, at the field level, in crime prevention and criminal justice and in drug control.

76. It also works closely with UNDCP and continues to participate actively in the drug control-related meetings. In its capacity as the designated collaborating Regional Training Centre for the Arab World, the ASSTC forensic laboratory carries out activities in line with the programme of the UNDCP Scientific Laboratory and the Training Unit. In pursuance of relevant drug control resolutions, ASSTC collaborated with UNDCP in its development of the United Nations Drug Law Enforcement Training Manual: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officials, is in the process of designing training courses, based on the Manual, to be conducted at its Headquarters, and acts as a cooperating institution in the formulation and implementation of international and regional training strategies, programmes and plans.

2. Comparative research and policy development

77. In its comparative research and policy development and evaluation activities, the Centre has direct access to high-level policy makers and decision makers in the region and holds consultations with them. Its research findings are used directly by national and regional agencies. It uses an extensive database and roster of highly qualified experts, researchers and scholars, some of whom work periodically at the Centre. Since the Research Centre began its operations in 1981, 96 research projects and studies have been designed and implemented.

3. Technical training and graduate education

78. The training needs of security personnel and criminal justice professionals are met by specialized training programmes designed to upgrade professional skills and enhance operational performance in a collaborative way. The technical training and education programmes of the Centre reach senior policy makers and decision makers in the Arab world, and have a direct impact on policy at the national, subregional and regional levels.

79. Training is offered through the ASSTC Graduate School of Criminal Justice at the Higher Institute of Studies, which offers advanced academic programmes. From the time of its establishment in 1983 until the end of 1991, the Graduate School awarded 490 Master's degrees and 290 other diplomas, constituting a significant contribution to professional criminal justice education in the region. The ASSTC Training Institute offers short-term training courses, which are practically oriented towards problem-sharing and problem-solving.

80. The ASSTC Forensic Science Laboratory offers practical, highly specialized courses for the laboratory personnel of Arab States. It supervises the Forensic Science training of students from its Graduate School and trainees from its Training Institute, and conducts advanced courses on the identification, detection and analysis of narcotic drugs. On the basis of an agreement between the Centre and UNDCP, the ASSTC Laboratory was granted the status of a regional laboratory for the training of Arab candidates holding a United Nations fellowship in drug identification.

4. Technical cooperation

81. ASSTC promotes subregional, regional and interregional technical cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, suited to the needs of

Arab States. Its Consultative Services Department provides consultancy services, upon request, and it has appointed a regional adviser in crime prevention and criminal justice. The Consultative Bureau of International Experts assists in this work, and a roster is kept of experts, who are called upon to act as consultants to the Bureau. Consultancy field services provided recently include the drafting of a law on the prevention of juvenile delinquency for Qatar, a study on the prevention of the forgery of Sudanese passports for the Ministry of the Interior of Sudan, a model for a unified academic system in Arab police colleges, and a design for traffic control on the bridge between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

5. Specialized literature and documentation services

82. ASSTC maintains an extensive, highly specialized library, and its Computer Centre collects, stores and analyses statistics and other forms of information, and stays "on line" with various major information systems and databases around the world, providing access to several international databases. It maintains security data banks, including one on existing laws and regulations and one on criminal statistics. The ASSTC publishing house publishes a number of ASSTC periodic journals and newsletters, including The Arab Journal for Security Science (biannual), The Arab Journal for Training (biannual), the ASSTC Magazine (monthly), and the ASSTC Newsletter (in English), as well as ASSTC books, reports and other material.

6. Conferences, symposia and public exhibitions

83. Conferences, symposia, expert meetings and public lectures are regularly held by the Centre for the benefit of both professional and public audiences. The Centre has an ongoing programme series of public education and awareness campaigns, lectures and round tables on various issues. It also organizes permanent and periodic exhibitions, introducing the latest innovations, equipment and technology in crime prevention and security and safety.

7. Resources

84. ASSTC funding derives from the contributions of Arab States. The total 1992 budget amounted to $11,000,000, 25 per cent of which is allocated to staffing, and 75 per cent is distributed among the various programmes.

B. Australian Institute of Criminology

85. AIC was established in 1971. It provides a range of policy-related research and allied services to all Australian governments, criminal justice agencies and other client groups. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the United Nations and the Institute in 1989, as a result of which AIC cooperates closely with the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

1. Comparative research and policy formulation

86. Reflecting its principal function as a policy research body, AIC conducts empirical research on a wide variety of topics. Current examples of regional and interregional activities of this type include an examination of the administration of environmental laws and regulations in ten states, participation in the Second International Crime Survey (a victimological survey in collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands and other Governments), and

involvement in crime victimization surveys in several urban areas (in collaboration with the Government of Papua New Guinea). AIC has done pioneering research work on a number of key criminological issues, such as domestic violence, and on research methodology, particularly in respect of crime and victimization.

87. In addition to its international activities, AIC has a dynamic programme of domestic research. It has identified for corporate planning purposes a number of priority areas of research for the period 1992-1995, including violence, drugs, environmental issues, fraud control, and national and international crime prevention strategies. The research strength of AIC lies in its capacity to conduct various types of cross-cultural research within and outside Australia. It has conducted considerable research on indigenous populations in relation to justice issues and administration.

2. Training and technical cooperation

88. In addition to the technical cooperation that AIC can offer, the Institute is in the process of initiating a fellowship programme for senior criminal justice practitioners within Australia. It is hoped that this programme can be extended to other practitioners within the region should funding become available from Australian foreign aid sources. It is also hoped that exchange programmes can be fostered between the AIC research staff and the staff of the Secretariat and of the other institutes.

3. Information and documentation services

89. AIC has an extensive library with a well developed computerized database, with interlinkages to other national and international databases, including the global information network on crime and criminal justice. The AIC library staff have already provided technical assistance to interregional and regional institutes, a service that AIC plans to continue. In addition, the Institute has been requested by the Australian Government to maintain specific clearing-house functions on violence prevention programmes, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in prisons, and drug issues. The benefit of these clearing-house functions and of the library at large will be made as widely available as possible.

90. AIC has an extensive publications programme. Its publications include Criminology Australia, Trends and Issues, and Facts and Figures. It offers its expertise in this area in order to facilitate the information-dissemination activities of the United Nations. As is the case of other AIC activities, however, some degree of cost recovery has to be incorporated in most forms of assistance.

4. Conferences and seminars

91. AIC has a regular programme of conferences and seminars. Most of them are organized in different locations within Australia on a cost-recovery basis. It is proposed to hold at least one meeting each year outside Australia, within the region, in collaboration with other institutions. International meetings are currently being planned with the Indonesian Society of Criminology ("East meets West: International Trends in Crime and Criminal Justice"); the Faculty of Law of the Hong Kong City Polytechnic and other bodies ("Crime and Criminal Justice in a Time of Transition"); and the Ministry of Justice of New Zealand (on important criminal justice issues within the South Pacific region).

92. For over a decade AIC has acted as the secretariat for the Asia and Pacific Correctional Administrators' Conference, which holds annual meetings within the region. In addition, in collaboration with the World Society of Victimology, AIC will be a sponsor of the Society's next international symposium, to be held at Adelaide in 1994.

5. Resources

93. AIC funding is provided principally by the Australian Government, and is supplemented by revenues from cost-recovery activities, including contract research, conferences and publications. The current annual budget is approximately $A 3 million, most of these funds being committed to fixed costs of the Institute's infrastructure (for example the premises and salaries). The remaining operational budget totals some $A 500,000, which is supplemented by some revenue-producing activities. The permanent staffing level is currently set at about 45 persons, with additional personnel employed on a contractual basis.

C. International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

94. The newest addition to the crime prevention and criminal justice programme network is the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, at Vancouver, established in 1991. Its programme focuses on research and other activities related to the development and reform of criminal law. The Centre was founded by the Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia in February 1991, through and with the support of the Government of Canada. In July 1991, the Government of Canada entered into a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations regarding the role of the Centre, in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/15.

95. The Centre is still in the process of establishing its organizational structure and its first work-plan. A number of factors will shape its activities in the coming years. The first is the strong commitment to criminal law reform, both in individual jurisdictions and internationally, inherited from the Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, which in turn grew out of the Law Reform Commission of Canada. It has a close working relationship with the Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and from the Asian Legal Studies Centre of the Faculty of Law of the University of British Columbia, considerable experience in comparative legal work.

1. Programme components

96. The Centre's role is to assist the United Nations and Member States in matters of criminal law reform and development. In its initial phase of operations, it is focusing its work on two principal areas. The first is women and criminal justice. It envisages acting as host to a meeting of experts on the draft manual on domestic violence for practitioners, with the Secretariat and the Helsinki Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, in cooperation with the Department of Justice of Canada. The Commonwealth of Learning, the Commonwealth's distance education agency, at Vancouver, has expressed an interest in working with the Centre to further public education initiatives that emerge from the meeting of experts.

97. The second principal area of concentration is on criminal justice and indigenous populations. This will begin with a comparative examination of the criminal law and the actual administration of justice, as it relates to aboriginal populations, and will then extend to a general examination of the role of customary law in the administration of criminal justice, especially as it interacts with statutory law. In 1992, a workshop on corruption will be held in the Caribbean area based on the manual on practical measures against corruption (A/CONF.144/8), prepared for the Eighth Congress.

98. The Centre is assisting the Commonwealth of Learning in promoting Commonwealth-wide cooperation in continuing judicial education, using distance education techniques. A meeting will be held at Vancouver in March 1992, which will bring together those responsible for continuing judicial education in order to discuss means of cooperation in the use of modern communication technology.

2. Resources

99. Resources are expected to come from a mix of public and private sources, from its founders and other contributors. It has already obtained grants from the Canadian Department of External Affairs and International Trade and from the Vancouver Foundation, one of the largest civic foundations in North America.

IV. CONCLUSION

100. The crime prevention and criminal justice programme network represents an invaluable resource of knowledge, experience and expertise, which can be used to assist States and their agencies, as well as the extensive constituency of criminal justice professionals in the various regions, in their search for solutions to crime problems. The potential of the network, though, has yet to be fully realized.

101. The resource base of the network is limited and makes it difficult for the network to meet its obligations to Member States. It also restricts the capacity of the network to assist the Secretariat in its global tasks. The financial vulnerability of some of the institutes, and the contribution-tied priorities of others, have affected their overall performance and the impact of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

102. That the programme network has contributed as much as it has is testimony to its commitment and good will. This is particularly the case in respect of the preparatory work for the United Nations congresses and the sessions of the former Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, including documentation, the interregional and regional preparatory meetings for the congresses, and the convening and servicing of these meetings. The network has also contributed substantively to publications and other materials on criminal policy questions, and the periodic information needed for internal reporting procedures.

103. The attempt of the more established and financially sound institutes of the network to help others which are less endowed, for example by sponsoring joint endeavours, is evidence of their solidarity and mutual support. For example, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and ASSTC helped the African Institute

for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to launch the initial phase of its activities. To fulfil the essential purposes of the Institute to give needed assistance to Member States in their regions, the network must, however, be helped to become self-sustaining. For the institutes in developing countries, a more stable financial base is absolutely essential.

104. To make the network viable, support is needed for strengthened and consolidated action on the part of the Secretariat. The Secretariat's support requires continuous advisory, monitoring and follow-up action. Effective coordination of the institutes' work programmes and activities is necessary to programme performance and impact.

105. A coordination mechanism has been established and maintained by means of the annual joint programme coordination meetings, generously hosted by ASSTC. The meetings have proved a valuable contribution to the coordination effort but have not led to a consolidated alignment of programme activities within the framework of the programme budget and medium-term plan, partly because of the competing priorities of the institutes, as determined by the voluntary contributions received.

106. Consultations have also been carried out, on an ad hoc basis, at meetings held under United Nations and other auspices. Owing to the lack of funds, however, especially for travel of backstopping officers to the institutes, the Secretariat has been seriously handicapped in establishing structured, regularized intra-institute consultations geared to planning, monitoring and evaluating programme activities and service delivery. No provision of regular budgetary resources has so far been allocated to permit such a procedure.

107. In an effort to render tangible assistance to the network, in pursuance of the numerous legislative mandates, as well as to ensure the necessary collaborative action, additional resources are needed to establish and maintain the necessary interfaces between the Secretariat and the network. These include on-site backstopping, overseeing and coordination of the activities of the institutes, particularly in connection with technical assistance included in country and regional projects, training programmes, joint research, planning and evaluation exercises, as well as fund-raising. A strengthened programme capacity would also facilitate the fulfilment of these tasks to the benefit of all concerned.

108. The heavy workload and scant resources at the disposal of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme have limited the assistance it has been able to give to the network. The lack of resources has particularly affected regular consultations and the intensification of intra-institute exchanges, as well as exchanges with the Secretariat to secure the necessary level of cooperation in a more formalized way.

109. Properly assisted, the network would fulfil its potential and operate at full capacity, as an integrated system and a practical operational tool to promote security and sustained development, prevent crime and victimization and safeguard human rights, as envisaged by Member States, particularly in General Assembly resolution 46/152 and its annex. The Commission's guidance is sought on ways in which this aim can be fulfilled.